

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 29, 45, 47, 60-62 are now pending. Claims 1-28, 30-44, 46, 48-59 have been canceled. Claims 60-62 are new. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

The Examiner has objected to for want of antecedent basis for the subject matter claimed in claims 30-48. Applicant has added the subject matter of allowable claims 44, 45 and 47 to the specification. Applicant therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claim 39 because of informalities. Claim 39 has been canceled. Applicant therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 44, 45 and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To this end, Applicant has amended independent claim 29 to include the text of **allowable claim 44** and canceled claim 44 as duplicative of amended claim 29. Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 45 into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 29. Claim 47 is dependent from the now allowable claim 29. Finally, new claims 60-62 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found, for example, on page 3, lines 9-10.


Lastly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections of claims 29-44, 46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been rendered moot by the above amendments to the claims. Of course, such amendments are not, nor should they be construed as, an acquiescence to the outstanding rejections. Rather, Applicants merely wish to expedite issuance of the allowed/allowable claims, and reserve the right to continue prosecution of any canceled subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 09/960,269  
Reply to Office Action dated November 12, 2004

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.  
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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